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HOAX WEATHER MESSAGE ABOUT THE **APHELION PHENOMENON**



A hoax message has been making rounds, claiming that there will be a cold spell countrywide, due to “the Aphelion phenomenon” until the month of August 2025. This statement is **false**, and it is **misleading**.

In definition, **Aphelion** is the point in Earth's orbit where it is farthest from the Sun. According to research, it is expected to occur on the 3rd of July at 3:54 PM and it is important that we emphasize that the distance variation does **NOT** significantly **impact temperatures or seasons in South Africa**. The seasons are determined by the Earth's axial tilt, not its distance from the Sun.

As such, we plead with the public not to circulate misleading information. According to our seasonal climate watch, issued on the 2nd of May 2025, **minimum and maximum temperatures are expected to be above normal** for most parts of the country during the winter season, **above normal** meaning that the temperatures are expected to be warmer than what we would get during our winter months. The Republic of South Africa will continue to be affected by different weather winter systems that are known to drop temperatures like the Cold fronts & cut off lows. In addition, the southern coastal regions are expected to have below normal temperatures for the remainder of the winter period.

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Furthermore, the El Nino- Southern Oscillation (ENSO) returned to a neutral state and it is predicted to remain there for the foreseeable future. It is important to note that ENSO has limited influence on South Africa during the winter season and is not expected to have a significant impact. However, as winter begins the focus is over the south-western parts of the country, as well as along the east and south coastal regions. These areas are expected to receive below-normal rainfall early-, mid- and late winter.

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor any further developments relating to the weather systems and will issue subsequent updates as required. Furthermore, intermediate updates may be followed on X (@SAWeatherServic), Facebook (South African Weather Service) or other SAWS-supported social media platforms.

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